

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

WILLIAM ERIC FULTON,
aka "Eric Fulton,"

Defendant.

CR No. 2:23-cr-00284-SPG

I N F O R M A T I O N

[18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2): Making
False Statements]

The United States Attorney charges:

[18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Information:

1. Defendant WILLIAM ERIC FULTON, also known as "Eric Fulton," was an accounting professional and the founder of and senior partner at a financial services company ("The Company"). The Company provided bookkeeping, accounting, and tax preparation services to its clients, which, according to defendant FULTON's website, included "some of the industry leaders in entertainment including, Film and T.V., music, sports and other high net worth individuals."

2. The Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI") and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal

1 Investigation Division ("IRS-CI") in Los Angeles and the United
2 States Attorney's Office ("USAO") for the Central District of
3 California were conducting a criminal investigation into federal
4 crimes, including illegal sports gambling and money laundering (the
5 "Federal Investigation").

6 3. The operation of a sports gambling business in California
7 was prohibited by 18 U.S.C. § 1955 and California Penal Code § 337a.

8 The Wayne Nix Illegal Sports Gambling Business

9 4. Wayne Nix was a resident of Orange County, California. Nix
10 was a minor league baseball player from 1995 to 2001.

11 5. Sometime after 2001, Nix began operating an illegal
12 bookmaking business in the Los Angeles area that accepted and paid
13 off bets from bettors in California and elsewhere in the United
14 States based on the outcomes of sporting events at agreed-upon odds
15 (the "Nix Gambling Business"). Through contacts he had developed
16 during his own career in professional sports, Nix created a client
17 list that included current and former professional athletes and
18 others.

19 6. Nix used agents to place and accept bets from others for
20 the Nix Gambling Business, including Agents 1 and 2.

21 7. Sand Island Sports operated Internet sports gambling
22 websites, including www.sandislandsports.com and www.betprestige.com
23 (the "Sand Island Sports websites"), hosted on servers primarily
24 located outside the United States. The Sand Island Sports websites
25 facilitated unlawful sports gambling by providing a platform to book
26 makers to track bets placed by their clients.

1 8. Nix provided bettors with account numbers and passwords for
2 the Sand Island Sports websites and directed the bettors to use the
3 Sand Island Sports websites to place bets with the Nix Gambling
4 Business.

5 9. Bettors would place bets online through the Sand Island
6 Sports websites, and through Nix, Agent 1, Agent 2, and others
7 working at Nix's direction.

8 Defendant Provided Financial Services to Nix's Gambling Business

9 10. In approximately 2010, defendant FULTON met Nix and began
10 providing financial services to Nix. Defendant FULTON also provided
11 financial services to Agents 1 and 2.

12 11. Defendant FULTON and The Company provided bookkeeping and
13 accounting services to Nix and Agent 1, including paying their bills
14 and transferring money between accounts.

15 12. Nix maintained a personal account and a business account
16 with Wells Fargo Bank. Nix used his Wells Fargo business account for
17 the gambling business. Defendant FULTON was an authorized signer
18 for both accounts and prepared and signed checks for the accounts on
19 Nix's behalf.

20 13. Beginning no later than 2011, defendant FULTON was aware
21 that Nix ran an illegal gambling business. Defendant FULTON
22 nonetheless knowingly laundered Nix's illicit gambling proceeds by
23 continuing to provide financial services to Nix and providing access
24 to the financial system. Defendant FULTON continued to transfer
25 money between accounts, issued checks and wires to Nix's gambling
26 clients who won large bets, and helped Nix obtain bank loans to
27 facilitate the gambling business.

1 Defendant Fulton Provided Loans to the Nix Gambling Business

2 14. Defendant FULTON further participated in the gambling
3 business by providing three personal loans to Nix totaling \$1,250,000
4 to allow Nix to pay his gambling clients when Nix needed rapid access
5 to liquid funds, which defendant FULTON agreed to provide at no cost
6 to Nix. Defendant FULTON knew the purpose of all three loans was to
7 allow Nix to pay his gambling clients.

8 Defendant FULTON's Use of the Nix Gambling Business

9 15. On November 12, 2016, defendant FULTON received a Sand
10 Island Sports account from Nix. That same day, defendant FULTON
11 placed 14 bets, including three bets on a professional match of a
12 client of The Company.

13 Investigation into Wayne Nix

14 16. On October 8, 2021, defendant FULTON was interviewed in the
15 presence of his attorney by HSI, IRS-CI, and the USAO in connection
16 with the Federal Investigation and services provided by The Company
17 to Nix. Defendant FULTON, through his counsel, requested that HSI
18 not record the interview.

19 17. At the beginning of the interview, a Special Agent from
20 IRS-CI admonished defendant FULTON that lying to federal law
21 enforcement agents was a crime, and defendant FULTON stated that he
22 understood.

23 B. FALSE STATEMENTS


24 18. On or about October 8, 2021, in Los Angeles County, within
25 the Central District of California, in an interview affecting the
26 Federal Investigation in the Central District of California, and in a
27 matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the
28 government of the United States, namely, HSI, IRS-CI, and the USAO,

1 defendant FULTON knowingly and willfully made materially false
2 statements and representations to HSI, IRS-CI, and the USAO knowing
3 that these statements and representations were untrue:

4 (a) Defendant FULTON falsely stated that Nix was a
5 consultant or concierge. In fact, as defendant FULTON then knew, Nix
6 ran an illegal bookmaking business, defendant FULTON had provided Nix
7 several personal loans to allow Nix to pay his gambling clients, and
8 defendant FULTON had referred at least one of his own clients to Nix
9 for purposes of illegal gambling.

10 (b) Defendant FULTON falsely stated that he had never
11 placed a bet online with Nix or Sand Island Sports. In fact, as
12 defendant FULTON then knew, defendant FULTON had received an account
13 number from Nix and placed a series of bets online through Sand
14 Island Sports, including bets on a sporting event involving one of
15 defendant FULTON's clients.

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